

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT L 00305 102217Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 PM-05 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 SP-02 AID-05 EB-08 COME-00
TRSE-00 /060 W
-----061370 111117Z /10

R 100932Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7370
INFO AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY VICTORIA
CINCPAC
CINCUSNAVEUR
COMIDEASTFOR

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT LOUIS 0305

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT EAID ECON EINV IN MP
SUBJECT: MAURITIUS WEEKLY REVIEW - MARCH 10 - SUMMARY

REF: (A) PORT LOUIS 0256 (DTG 031000Z MAR 78)
(B) PORT LOUIS A-21, MARCH 10, 1978

1. THE TURMOIL INSIDE THE LABOR PARTY SET OFF BY THE FIVE
DISSIDENT DEPUTIES, KNOWN AS THE YOUNG TURKS, CONTINUED THIS
WEEK. THE PRIME MINISTER REPORTEDLY MADE SOME CONCESSIONS
TO THEIR DEMANDS, SUCH AS AGREEING TO THE OUSTER OF CERTAIN
OVERAGED HEADS OF PARASTATAL AGENCIES, FORBIDDING THE USE OF
GOVERNMENT CARS BY MINISTERS FOR PERSONAL TRIPS, AND THE
ENDING OF DUTY-FREE PURCHASES BY CERTAIN PRIVILEGED PERSONNEL.
BUT HE REFUSED TO CONSIDER REMOVING WALTER, JAGATSINGH, AND
MOHAMED FROM THE CABINET.

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PAGE 02 PORT L 00305 102217Z

2. THE DRAWING OF LINES BETWEEN THE BOOLELL AND RINGADOO
FACTIONS OF THE LABOR PARTY IS BECOMING MORE APPARENT.
THE EMBASSY'S SOUNDINGS INDICATE THAT AGRICULTURE MINISTER
BOOLELL ENJOYS SUPPORT FOR THE SUCCESSION TO RAMGOOLAM
AMONG THE PRIVATE SECTOR, THE MAURITIAN SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC
PARTY (PMSD). THE ELITE OF THE MUSLIM COMMUNITY, AND EVEN

AMONG THE OPPOSITION MAURITIAN MILITANT MOVEMENT (MMM) --
IN THAT THEY VIEW HIM AS BEING LESS HOSTILE TO THEIR PARTY
THAN IS RINGADOO. INSIDE THE LABOR PARTY BOOLELL
HAS THE CLEAR PUBLIC SUPPORT OF THE YOUNG TURKS, BUT A
LEADER OF THE LARGE BODY OF LOWER CASTE HINDUS HAS AS YET
GIVEN NO INDICATION WHERE HIS SYMPATHIES LIE.

3. IN THE ECONOMIC AREA FINANCE MINISTER RINGADOO, WHILE
ON A MISSION TO INDIA, SIGNED A LOAN AGREEMENT FOR RS 100
MILLION TO PURCHASE INDIAN COMMODITIES FOR BOTH CONSUMPTION
AND DEVELOPMENT PURPOSES. ARAB INVESTORS ARE REPORTEDLY
COMING TO MAURITIUS LATER THIS MONTH TO EXAMINE THE INVESTMENT
CLIMATE. ONE PROJECT MAY BE THE CONSTRUCTION OF A REFINERY
AND PETROCHEMICAL PLANT. THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX ROSE BY
.9 OF A POINT IN JANUARY, REACHING A FIGURE OF 114.6 (WITH
JUNE 1976 AS THE BASE).
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Message Attributes

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